

# Search for charged Higgs bosons decaying via $H^\pm \rightarrow \tau\nu$ in $t\bar{t}$ events using $pp$ collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV with the ATLAS detector

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**ABSTRACT:** The results of a search for charged Higgs bosons are presented. The analysis is based on  $4.6\text{ fb}^{-1}$  of proton-proton collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV collected by the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider, using top quark pair events with a  $\tau$  lepton in the final state. The data are consistent with the expected background from Standard Model processes. Assuming that the branching ratio of the charged Higgs boson to a  $\tau$  lepton and a neutrino is 100%, this leads to upper limits on the branching ratio of top quark decays to a  $b$  quark and a charged Higgs boson between 5% and 1% for charged Higgs boson masses ranging from 90 GeV to 160 GeV, respectively. In the context of the  $m_h^{\text{max}}$  scenario of the MSSM,  $\tan\beta$  above 12–26, as well as between 1 and 2–6, can be excluded for charged Higgs boson masses between 90 GeV and 150 GeV.

**KEYWORDS:** Hadron-Hadron Scattering

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# 1 Introduction

Charged Higgs bosons ( $H^+$ ,  $H^-$ ) are predicted by several non-minimal Higgs scenarios, such as Two Higgs Doublet Models (2HDM) [1] or models containing Higgs triplets [2–6]. As the Standard Model (SM) does not contain any elementary charged scalar particle, the observation of a charged Higgs boson<sup>1</sup> would clearly indicate new physics beyond the SM. For instance, supersymmetric models predict the existence of charged Higgs bosons. In a type-II 2HDM, such as the Higgs sector of the Minimal Supersymmetric extension of the Standard Model (MSSM) [7–11], the main  $H^+$  production mode at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is through top quark decays  $t \rightarrow bH^+$ , for charged Higgs boson masses ( $m_{H^+}$ ) smaller than the top quark mass ( $m_{\text{top}}$ ). The dominant source of top quarks at the LHC is through  $t\bar{t}$  production. The cross section for  $H^+$  production from single top quark events is much smaller and is not considered here. For  $\tan\beta > 2$ , where  $\tan\beta$  is the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs doublets, the charged Higgs boson decay via  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu$  is dominant and remains sizeable for  $1 < \tan\beta < 2$  [12]. In this paper,  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$  is assumed, unless otherwise specified. Under this assumption, the combined LEP lower limit for the charged Higgs boson mass is about 90 GeV [13]. The Tevatron experiments placed upper limits on  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  in the 15–20% range for  $m_{H^+} < m_{\text{top}}$  [14, 15].

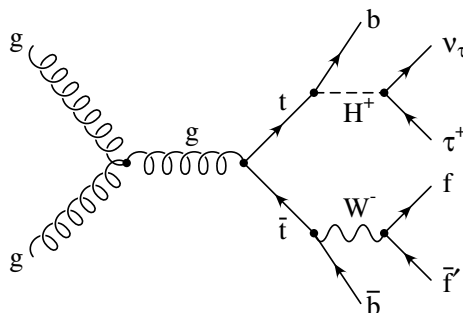
This paper describes a search for charged Higgs bosons with masses in the range 90–160 GeV, using  $t\bar{t}$  events with a leptonically or hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton in the final state, i.e. with the topology shown in figure 1. Charged Higgs bosons are searched for in a model-independent way, hence exclusion limits are given in terms of  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ , as well as in the  $m_h^{\text{max}}$  scenario [16] of the MSSM. The results are based on  $4.6\text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data from  $pp$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV, collected in 2011 with the ATLAS experiment [17] at the LHC. Three final states, which are expected to yield the highest sensitivity, are analysed:

- lepton+jets:  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(q\bar{q}')(\tau_{\text{lep}}\nu)$ , i.e.  $W$  decays hadronically and  $\tau$  decays into an electron or a muon, with two neutrinos;
- $\tau$ +lepton:  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(l\nu)(\tau_{\text{had}}\nu)$ , i.e.  $W$  decays leptonically (with  $l = e, \mu$ ) and  $\tau$  decays hadronically;
- $\tau$ +jets:  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(q\bar{q}')(\tau_{\text{had}}\nu)$ , i.e. both  $W$  and  $\tau$  decay hadronically.

In section 2, the data and simulated samples used in this analysis are described. In section 3, the reconstruction of physics objects in ATLAS is discussed. Sections 4–6 present results obtained in the lepton+jets,  $\tau$ +lepton and  $\tau$ +jets channels, respectively. Systematic uncertainties are discussed in section 7, before exclusion limits in terms of  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  and  $\tan\beta$  are presented in section 8. Finally, a summary is given in section 9.

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<sup>1</sup>In the following, charged Higgs bosons are denoted  $H^+$ , with the charge-conjugate  $H^-$  always implied. Hence,  $\tau$  denotes a positively charged  $\tau$  lepton.



**Figure 1.** Example of a leading-order Feynman diagram for the production of  $t\bar{t}$  events arising from gluon fusion, where a top quark decays to a charged Higgs boson, followed by the decay  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu$ .

## 2 Data and simulated events

The ATLAS detector [17] consists of an inner tracking detector with a coverage in pseudo-rapidity<sup>2</sup> up to  $|\eta| = 2.5$ , surrounded by a thin 2 T superconducting solenoid, a calorimeter system extending up to  $|\eta| = 4.9$  for the detection of electrons, photons and hadronic jets, and a large muon spectrometer extending up to  $|\eta| = 2.7$  that measures the deflection of muon tracks in the field of three superconducting toroid magnets. A three-level trigger system is used. The first level trigger is implemented in hardware, using a subset of detector information to reduce the event rate to a design value of at most 75 kHz. This is followed by two software-based trigger levels, which together reduce the event rate to about 300 Hz.

Only data taken with all ATLAS sub-systems operational are used; this results in an integrated luminosity of  $4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for the 2011 data-taking period. The integrated luminosity has an uncertainty of 3.9%, measured as described in refs. [18, 19] and based on the whole 2011 dataset. Following basic data quality checks, further event cleaning is performed by demanding that no jet is consistent with having originated from instrumental effects, such as large noise signals in one or several channels of the hadronic end-cap calorimeter, coherent noise in the electromagnetic calorimeter, or non-collision backgrounds. In addition, events are discarded if the reconstructed vertex with the largest sum of squared track momenta has fewer than five associated tracks with transverse momenta  $p_T > 400 \text{ MeV}$ .

The background processes that enter this search include the SM pair production of top quarks  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ , as well as the production of single top quark,  $W$ +jets,  $Z/\gamma^*$ +jets, diboson and multi-jet events. Data-driven methods are used in order to estimate the multi-jet background, as well as the backgrounds with intrinsic missing transverse momentum where electrons or jets are misidentified as hadronically decaying  $\tau$  leptons. The modelling of SM  $t\bar{t}$  and single top quark events is performed with MC@NLO [20], except for the

<sup>2</sup>ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the  $z$ -axis along the beam pipe. The  $x$ -axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the  $y$ -axis points upwards. Cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \phi)$  are used in the transverse plane,  $\phi$  being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle  $\theta$  as  $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ .

Process	Generator	Cross section [pb]	
SM $t\bar{t}$ with at least one lepton $\ell = e, \mu, \tau$	MC@NLO [20]	91	[26]
Single top quark $t$ -channel (with $\ell$ )	AcerMC [21]	21	[27]
Single top quark $s$ -channel (with $\ell$ )	MC@NLO [20]	1.5	[28]
Single top quark $Wt$ -channel (inclusive)	MC@NLO [20]	16	[29]
$W \rightarrow \ell\nu$	ALPGEN [31]	$3.1 \times 10^4$	[33]
$Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ with $m(\ell\ell) > 10$ GeV	ALPGEN [31]	$1.5 \times 10^4$	[34]
$WW$	HERWIG [23]	17	[35]
$ZZ$	HERWIG [23]	1.3	[35]
$WZ$	HERWIG [23]	5.5	[35]
$H^+$ signal with $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$	PYTHIA [25]	16	

**Table 1.** Cross sections for the simulated processes and generators used to model them.

$t$ -channel single top quark production where AcerMC [21] is used. The top quark mass is set to 172.5 GeV and the set of parton distribution functions used is CT10 [22]. For the events generated with MC@NLO, the parton shower, hadronisation and underlying event are added using HERWIG [23] and JIMMY [24]. PYTHIA [25] is instead used for events generated with AcerMC. Inclusive cross sections are taken from the approximate next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) predictions for  $t\bar{t}$  production [26], for single top quark production in the  $t$ -channel and  $s$ -channel [27, 28], as well as for  $Wt$  production [29]. Overlaps between  $Wt$  and SM  $t\bar{t}$  final states are removed [30]. Single vector boson ( $W$  and  $Z/\gamma^*$ ) production is simulated with ALPGEN [31] interfaced to HERWIG and JIMMY, using CTEQ6.1 [32] parton distribution functions. The additional partons produced in the matrix element part of the event generation can be light partons or heavy quarks. In the latter case, dedicated samples with matrix elements for the production of massive  $b\bar{b}$  or  $c\bar{c}$  pairs are used. Diboson events ( $WW$ ,  $WZ$  and  $ZZ$ ) are generated using HERWIG. The cross sections are normalised to NNLO predictions for  $W$  and  $Z/\gamma^*$  production [33, 34] and to next-to-leading-order (NLO) predictions for diboson production [35].

The SM background samples are summarised in table 1. In addition, three types of signal samples are produced with PYTHIA for  $90 \text{ GeV} < m_{H^+} < 160 \text{ GeV}$ :  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}H^+W^-$ ,  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}H^-W^+$  and  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}H^+H^-$ , where the charged Higgs bosons decay as  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu$ . The cross section for each of these three processes depends only on the total  $t\bar{t}$  production cross section (167 pb) and the branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ . TAUOLA [36] is used for  $\tau$  decays, and PHOTOS [37] is used for photon radiation from charged leptons.

The event generators are tuned in order to describe the ATLAS data. The parameter sets AUET2 [38] and AUET2B [39] are used for events for which hadronisation is simulated using HERWIG/JIMMY and PYTHIA, respectively. To take into account the presence of multiple interactions (around nine, on average) occurring in the same and neighbouring

bunch crossings (referred to as pile-up), simulated minimum bias events are added to the hard process in each generated event. Prior to the analysis, simulated events are reweighted in order to match the distribution of the average number of pile-up interactions in the data. All generated events are propagated through a detailed GEANT4 simulation [40, 41] of the ATLAS detector and are reconstructed with the same algorithms as the data.

### 3 Physics object reconstruction

#### 3.1 Electrons

Electrons are reconstructed by matching clustered energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter to tracks reconstructed in the inner detector. The electron candidates are required to meet quality requirements based on the expected shower shape [42], to have a transverse energy  $E_T > 20$  GeV and to be in the fiducial volume of the detector,  $|\eta| < 2.47$  (the transition region between the barrel and end-cap calorimeters,  $1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$ , is excluded). Additionally,  $E_T$  and  $\eta$ -dependent calorimeter (tracking) isolation requirements are imposed in a cone with a radius<sup>3</sup>  $\Delta R = 0.2$  (0.3) around the electron position, excluding the electron object itself, with an efficiency of about 90% for true isolated electrons.

#### 3.2 Muons

Muon candidates are required to contain matching inner detector and muon spectrometer tracks [43], as well as to have  $p_T > 15$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Only isolated muons are accepted by requiring that the transverse energy deposited in the calorimeters (the transverse momentum of the inner detector tracks) in a cone of radius  $\Delta R = 0.2$  (0.3) around the muon amounts to less than 4 GeV (2.5 GeV). The energy and momentum of the muon are excluded from the cone when applying these isolation requirements.

#### 3.3 Jets

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm [44, 45] with a size parameter value of  $R = 0.4$ . The jet finder uses reconstructed three-dimensional, noise-suppressed clusters of calorimeter cells [46]. Jets are calibrated to the hadronic energy scale with correction factors based on simulation [47, 48]. A method that allows for the identification and selection of jets originating from the hard-scatter interaction through the use of tracking and vertexing information is used [49]. This is referred to as the “Jet Vertex Fraction” (JVF), defined as the fraction of the total momentum of the charged particle tracks associated to the jet which belongs to tracks that are also compatible with the primary vertex. By convention, jets with no associated tracks are assigned a JVF value of  $-1$  in order to keep a high efficiency for jets at large values of  $\eta$ , outside the range of the inner tracking detectors. The jet selection based on this discriminant is shown to be insensitive to pile-up. A requirement of  $|\text{JVF}| > 0.75$  is placed on all jets during event selection. In order to identify the jets initiated by  $b$  quarks, an algorithm is used that combines impact-parameter information

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<sup>3</sup> $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ , where  $\Delta\eta$  is the difference in pseudorapidity of the two objects in question, and  $\Delta\phi$  is the difference between their azimuthal angles.

with the explicit determination of a secondary vertex [50]. A working point is chosen that corresponds to an average efficiency of about 70% for  $b$  jets with  $p_T > 20$  GeV in  $t\bar{t}$  events and a light-quark jet rejection factor of about 130. Since the  $b$ -tagger relies on the inner tracking detectors, the acceptance region for jets is restricted to  $|\eta| < 2.4$ .

### 3.4 $\tau$ jets

In order to reconstruct hadronically decaying  $\tau$  leptons, anti- $k_t$  jets with either one or three associated tracks reconstructed in the inner detector and depositing  $E_T > 10$  GeV in the calorimeter are considered as  $\tau$  candidates [51]. Dedicated algorithms are used in order to reject electrons and muons. Hadronic  $\tau$  decays are identified using a likelihood criterion designed to discriminate against quark- and gluon-initiated jets by using the shower shape and tracking variables as inputs. A working point with an efficiency of about 30% for hadronically decaying  $\tau$  leptons with  $p_T > 20$  GeV in  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  events is chosen, leading to a rejection factor of about 100–1000 for jets. The rejection factor depends on the  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  of the candidate and the number of associated tracks. The  $\tau$  candidates are further required to have a visible transverse momentum of at least 20 GeV and to be within  $|\eta| < 2.3$ . The selected  $\tau$  candidates are henceforth referred to as “ $\tau$  jets”.

### 3.5 Removal of geometric overlaps between objects

When candidates selected using the criteria above overlap geometrically, the following procedures are applied, in this order: muon candidates are rejected if they are found within  $\Delta R < 0.4$  of any jet with  $p_T > 25$  GeV; a  $\tau$  jet is rejected if found within  $\Delta R < 0.2$  of a selected muon or electron; jets are removed if they are within  $\Delta R < 0.2$  of a selected  $\tau$  object or electron.

### 3.6 Missing transverse momentum

The missing transverse momentum and its magnitude  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  [52] are reconstructed from three-dimensional, noise-suppressed clusters of cells in the calorimeter and from muon tracks reconstructed in the muon spectrometer and the inner tracking detectors. Clusters of calorimeter cells belonging to jets (including  $\tau$  jets) with  $p_T > 20$  GeV are calibrated to the hadronic energy scale. Calorimeter cells not associated with any object are also taken into account and they are calibrated at the electromagnetic energy scale. In order to deal appropriately with the energy deposited by muons in the calorimeters, the contributions of muons to  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  are calculated differently for isolated and non-isolated muons.

## 4 Analysis of the lepton+jets channel

This analysis relies on the detection of lepton+jets decays of  $t\bar{t}$  events, where the charged lepton  $l$  (electron or muon) arises from  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau_{\text{lep}}\nu$ , while the jets arise from a hadronically decaying  $W$  boson, i.e.  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(q\bar{q}')(\tau_{\text{lep}}\nu)$ .

## 4.1 Event selection

The lepton+jets analysis uses events passing a single-lepton trigger with an  $E_T$  threshold of 20–22 GeV for electrons<sup>4</sup> and a  $p_T$  threshold of 18 GeV for muons. These thresholds are low enough to guarantee that electrons and muons chosen for the analysis are in the plateau region of the trigger-efficiency curve. In addition, to select a sample of lepton+jets events enriched in  $t\bar{t}$  candidates, the following requirements are applied:

- exactly one lepton having  $E_T > 25$  GeV (electron) or  $p_T > 20$  GeV (muon) and matched to the corresponding trigger object, with neither a second lepton nor a  $\tau$  jet in the event;
- at least four jets having  $p_T > 20$  GeV, with exactly two of them being  $b$ -tagged;
- $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 40$  GeV and, in order to discriminate between  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  arising from isolated neutrinos and from poorly reconstructed leptons, this requirement is tightened to  $E_T^{\text{miss}} \times |\sin \Delta\phi_{l,\text{miss}}| > 20$  GeV if the azimuthal angle  $\Delta\phi_{l,\text{miss}}$  between the lepton and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is smaller than  $\pi/6$ .

Having selected a lepton+jets sample enriched in  $t\bar{t}$  candidates, jets must be assigned correctly to the decay products of each  $W$  boson (with a mass  $m_W = 80.4$  GeV) and top quark. In particular, the hadronic side of the event is identified by selecting the combination of one  $b$ -tagged jet ( $b$ ) and two untagged jets ( $j$ ) that minimises:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(m_{jjb} - m_{\text{top}})^2}{\sigma_{\text{top}}^2} + \frac{(m_{jj} - m_W)^2}{\sigma_W^2}, \quad (4.1)$$

where  $\sigma_{\text{top}} = 17$  GeV and  $\sigma_W = 10$  GeV are the widths of the reconstructed top quark and  $W$  boson mass distributions, as measured in simulated  $t\bar{t}$  events. Using information about the correctly identified combinations in the generated events, the jet assignment efficiency is found to be 72%. Events with  $\chi^2 > 5$  are rejected in order to select well-reconstructed hadronic top quark candidates.

## 4.2 Data-driven estimation of backgrounds with misidentified leptons

While the ATLAS lepton identification gives a very pure sample of candidates, there is a non-negligible contribution from non-isolated leptons arising from the semileptonic decay of hadrons containing  $b$  or  $c$  quarks, from the decay-in-flight of  $\pi^\pm$  or  $K$  mesons and, in the case of misidentified electron objects, from the reconstruction of  $\pi^0$  mesons, photon conversions or shower fluctuations. All leptons coming from such mechanisms are referred to as *misidentified* leptons, as opposed to truly isolated leptons (e.g. from the prompt decay of  $W$  or  $Z$  bosons), which are referred to as *real* leptons. The data-driven estimation of the number of misidentified leptons passing the lepton selections of sections 3.1 and 3.2 is based on exploiting differences in the lepton identification between real and misidentified

<sup>4</sup>The electron trigger threshold was increased from 20 GeV to 22 GeV towards the end of data-taking in 2011.



electrons or muons. Two data samples are defined, which differ only in the lepton identification criteria. The *tight* sample contains mostly events with real leptons and uses the same lepton selection as in the analysis. The *loose* sample contains mostly events with misidentified leptons. This latter sample is obtained by loosening the isolation and identification requirements for the leptons. For loose electrons, the isolation requirements have an efficiency of about 98% for true isolated electrons, compared to 90% in the tight sample. For loose muons, the isolation requirement is removed. By construction, the tight sample is therefore a subset of the loose sample.

Let  $N_r^L$  and  $N_m^L$  ( $N_r^T$  and  $N_m^T$ ) be the number of events containing real and misidentified leptons, respectively, passing a loose (tight) selection. The numbers of events containing one loose or tight lepton are given by:

$$N^L = N_m^L + N_r^L, \quad (4.2)$$

$$N^T = N_m^T + N_r^T. \quad (4.3)$$

Defining  $p_r$  and  $p_m$  as:

$$p_r = \frac{N_r^T}{N_r^L} \quad \text{and} \quad p_m = \frac{N_m^T}{N_m^L}, \quad (4.4)$$

the number of misidentified leptons passing the tight selection  $N_m^T$  can then be written as:

$$N_m^T = \frac{p_m}{p_r - p_m} (p_r N^L - N^T). \quad (4.5)$$

The main ingredients of this data-driven method are thus the relative efficiencies  $p_r$  and  $p_m$  for a real or a misidentified lepton, respectively, to be detected as a tight lepton. The lepton identification efficiency  $p_r$  is measured using a tag-and-probe method on  $Z \rightarrow ll$  data events with a dilepton invariant mass between 86 GeV and 96 GeV, where one lepton is required to fulfill tight selection criteria. The rate at which the other lepton passes the same tight selection criteria defines  $p_r$ . The average values of the electron and muon identification efficiencies are 80% and 97%, respectively. On the other hand, a control sample with misidentified leptons is selected by considering events in the data with exactly one lepton passing the loose criteria. In order to select events dominated by multi-jet production,  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is required to be between 5 GeV and 20 GeV. Residual true leptons contribute at a level below 10% and are subtracted from this sample using simulation. After this subtraction, the rate at which a loose lepton passes tight selection criteria defines the misidentification rate  $p_m$ . The average values of the electron and muon misidentification probabilities are 18% and 29%, respectively. In the final parameterisation of  $p_r$  and  $p_m$ , dependencies on the pseudorapidity of the lepton, its distance  $\Delta R$  to the nearest jet and the leading jet  $p_T$  are taken into account.

### 4.3 Reconstruction of discriminating variables after the selection cuts

The analysis uses two variables that discriminate between leptons produced in  $\tau \rightarrow l\nu_l\nu_\tau$  and leptons coming directly from  $W$  boson decays. The first discriminating variable is the

invariant mass  $m_{bl}$  of the  $b$  jet and the charged lepton  $l$  coming from the same top quark candidate, or more conveniently,  $\cos \theta_l^*$  defined as:

$$\cos \theta_l^* = \frac{2m_{bl}^2}{m_{\text{top}}^2 - m_W^2} - 1 \simeq \frac{4p^b \cdot p^l}{m_{\text{top}}^2 - m_W^2} - 1. \quad (4.6)$$

Both  $m_b^2$  and  $m_l^2$  are neglected, hence  $m_{bl}^2 \simeq 2p^b \cdot p^l$ , where  $p^b$  and  $p^l$  are the four-momenta of the  $b$  jet and of the charged lepton  $l$ , respectively. The presence of a charged Higgs boson in a leptonic top quark decay reduces the invariant product  $p^b \cdot p^l$ , when compared to  $W$ -mediated top quark decays, leading to  $\cos \theta_l^*$  values closer to  $-1$ .

The second discriminating variable is the transverse mass  $m_T^H$  [53], obtained by fulfilling the constraint  $(p^{\text{miss}} + p^l + p^b)^2 = m_{\text{top}}^2$  on the leptonic side of lepton+jets  $t\bar{t}$  events. More than one neutrino accounts for the invisible four-momentum  $p^{\text{miss}}$  and its transverse component  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ . By construction,  $m_T^H$  gives an event-by-event lower bound on the mass of the leptonically decaying charged ( $W$  or Higgs) boson produced in the top quark decay, and it can be written as:

$$(m_T^H)^2 = \left( \sqrt{m_{\text{top}}^2 + (\vec{p}_T^l + \vec{p}_T^b + \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}})^2} - p_T^b \right)^2 - \left( \vec{p}_T^l + \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}} \right)^2. \quad (4.7)$$

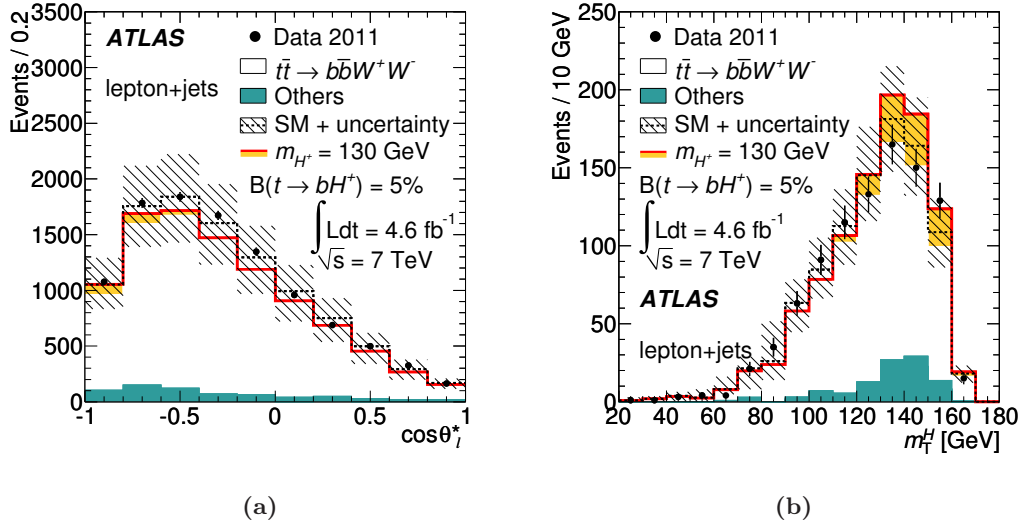
The  $\cos \theta_l^*$  distribution measured in the data is shown in figure 2a, superimposed on the predicted background, determined with a data-driven method for the multi-jet background and simulation for the other SM backgrounds. In the presence of a charged Higgs boson in the top quark decays, with a branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ , the contribution of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events in the background is scaled according to this branching ratio. A control region enriched in  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events is defined by requiring  $-0.2 < \cos \theta_l^* < 1$ . In section 8, this sample is used to fit the branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  and the product of the cross section  $\sigma_{b\bar{b}W^+W^-}$ , the luminosity, the selection efficiency and acceptance for  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ , simultaneously with the likelihood for the signal estimation. In turn, this ensures that the final results, and in particular the upper limit on  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ , are independent of the assumed theoretical production cross section for  $t\bar{t}$ . With a branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$ , the signal contamination in the control region would range from 1.3% for  $m_{H^+} = 90$  GeV to 0.4% for  $m_{H^+} = 160$  GeV. The signal region is defined by requiring  $\cos \theta_l^* < -0.6$  and  $m_T^W < 60$  GeV, where:

$$m_T^W = \sqrt{2p_T^l E_T^{\text{miss}}(1 - \cos \Delta\phi_{l,\text{miss}})}. \quad (4.8)$$

This is done in order to suppress the background from events with a  $W$  boson decaying directly into electrons or muons. For events in the signal region,  $m_T^H$ , shown in figure 2b, is used as a discriminating variable to search for charged Higgs bosons. Table 2 lists the contributions to the signal region of the SM processes and of  $t\bar{t}$  events with at least one decay  $t \rightarrow bH^+$ , assuming  $m_{H^+} = 130$  GeV and  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$ . When including signal in the prediction, the simulated SM  $t\bar{t}$  contribution is scaled according to this branching ratio. The data are consistent with the predicted SM background and no significant deformation of the  $m_T^H$  distribution is observed.

Sample	Event yield (lepton+jets)		
$t\bar{t}$	840	$\pm 20$	$\pm 150$
Single top quark	28	$\pm 2$	$^{+8}_{-6}$
$W$ +jets	14	$\pm 3$	$^{+6}_{-3}$
$Z$ +jets	2.1	$\pm 0.7$	$^{+1.2}_{-0.4}$
Diboson	0.5	$\pm 0.1$	$\pm 0.2$
Misidentified leptons	55	$\pm 10$	$\pm 20$
All SM backgrounds	940	$\pm 22$	$\pm 150$
Data	933		
$t \rightarrow bH^+$ (130 GeV)	120	$\pm 4$	$\pm 25$
Signal+background	990	$\pm 21$	$\pm 140$

**Table 2.** Expected event yields in the signal region of the lepton+jets final state, and comparison with  $4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data. A cross section of 167 pb is assumed for the SM  $t\bar{t}$  background. The numbers shown in the last two rows, for a hypothetical  $H^+$  signal with  $m_{H^+} = 130 \text{ GeV}$ , are obtained with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$ . Both statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown, in this order.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of (a)  $\cos \theta_l^*$  and (b)  $m_T^H$ , in the signal region ( $\cos \theta_l^* < -0.6$ ,  $m_T^W < 60 \text{ GeV}$ ) for the latter. The dashed line corresponds to the SM-only hypothesis and the hatched area around it shows the total uncertainty for the SM backgrounds, where “Others” refers to the contribution of all SM processes except  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ . The solid line shows the predicted contribution of signal+background in the presence of a 130 GeV charged Higgs boson, assuming  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$  and  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ . The light area below the solid line corresponds to the contribution of the  $H^+$  signal, stacked on top of the scaled  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  background and other SM processes.

## 5 Analysis of the $\tau$ +lepton channel

This analysis relies on the detection of  $\tau$ +lepton decays of  $t\bar{t}$  events, where the hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton arises from  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau_{\text{had}}\nu$ , while an electron or muon comes from the decay of the  $W$  boson, i.e.  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(l\nu)(\tau_{\text{had}}\nu)$ .

### 5.1 Event selection

The  $\tau$ +lepton analysis relies on the same single-lepton trigger signatures as the lepton+jets analysis presented in section 4. In order to select  $\tau$ +lepton events, the following requirements are made:

- exactly one lepton, having  $E_T > 25$  GeV (electron) or  $p_T > 20$  GeV (muon) and matched to the corresponding trigger object, and no other electron or muon;
- exactly one  $\tau$  jet having  $p_T > 20$  GeV and an electric charge opposite to that of the lepton;
- at least two jets having  $p_T > 20$  GeV, including at least one  $b$ -tagged jet;
- $\sum p_T > 100$  GeV in order to suppress multi-jet events, where  $\sum p_T$  is the sum of the transverse momenta of all tracks associated with the primary vertex. Tracks entering the sum must pass quality cuts on the number of hits and have  $p_T > 1$  GeV. As this variable is based on tracks from the primary vertex (as opposed to energy deposits in the calorimeter), it is robust against pile-up.

$E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is used as the discriminating variable to distinguish between SM  $t\bar{t}$  events and those where top quark decays are mediated by a charged Higgs boson, in which case the neutrinos are likely to carry away more energy.

### 5.2 Data-driven estimation of backgrounds with misidentified leptons

The estimation of the backgrounds with misidentified leptons uses the data-driven method described in section 4.2. When implementing the method, the dependence of real and misidentification rates on the  $b$ -tagged jet multiplicity are taken into account, as well as the requirement for one  $\tau$  jet (instead of a  $\tau$  jet veto).

### 5.3 Backgrounds with electrons and jets misidentified as $\tau$ jets

The background with electrons misidentified as  $\tau$  jets is estimated using a  $Z \rightarrow ee$  control region in the data [51], where one electron is reconstructed as a  $\tau$  jet. The measured misidentification probabilities, which have an average value of 0.2%, are then applied to all simulated events in the  $\tau$ +lepton analysis. Simulation studies show that this application is valid, as the misidentification probabilities for  $Z \rightarrow ee$  and  $t\bar{t}$  events are similar.

A data-driven method applied to a control sample enriched in  $W$ +jets events is used to measure the probability for a jet to be misidentified as a hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton. This measured probability is used to predict the yield of background events due to  $\text{jet} \rightarrow \tau$  misidentification. Like jets from the hard process in the dominant  $t\bar{t}$  background, jets in the

control sample originate predominantly from quarks instead of gluons. The main difference between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets events is the different fraction of  $b$  jets, which is smaller in  $W$ +jets events. However, the probability for a  $b$  jet to be misidentified as a  $\tau$  jet is smaller than the corresponding probability for a light-quark jet, because the average track multiplicity is higher for  $b$  jets. Moreover, the visible mass measurement used in the  $\tau$  identification provides further discrimination between  $b$  jets and  $\tau$  jets. Differences in jet composition (e.g. the ratio of gluons to quarks) between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets, assessed using simulation, are taken into account as systematic uncertainties. These also cover the dependence of the probability on whether a  $b$  jet or a light-quark jet is misidentified as a  $\tau$  jet. Events in the control region are required to pass the same single-lepton trigger, data quality and lepton requirements as in the  $\tau$ +lepton event selection. Additionally, a  $\tau$  candidate and  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 40$  GeV are required, and events with  $b$ -tagged jets are vetoed. Simulated events with a true  $\tau$  contribute at a level below 0.5% and are subtracted. The  $\tau$  candidates are required to have  $p_T > 20$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.3$ , and cannot be within  $\Delta R = 0.2$  of any electron or muon. They are also not required to pass  $\tau$  identification. The jet  $\rightarrow \tau$  misidentification probability is defined as the number of objects passing the full  $\tau$  identification divided by the number prior to requiring identification. This misidentification probability is evaluated separately for  $\tau$  candidates with one or three associated tracks (the corresponding average values are about 7% and 2%, respectively) and, in addition, it is measured as a function of both  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ .

In order to predict the background for the charged Higgs boson search, the measured jet  $\rightarrow \tau$  misidentification probability is applied to simulated  $t\bar{t}$ , single top quark,  $W$ +jets,  $Z/\gamma^*$ +jets and diboson events, all of which are required to pass the full event selection except for the  $\tau$  identification. For these events,  $\tau$  candidates not overlapping with a true  $\tau$  lepton or a true electron, but otherwise fulfilling the same requirements as in the denominator of the misidentification probability, are identified. Each of them is considered separately to be potentially misidentified as a  $\tau$  jet. In order to avoid counting the same object twice, each jet that corresponds to a  $\tau$  candidate is removed from the event. The number of reconstructed jets and the number of  $b$ -tagged jets are adjusted accordingly. If, after taking this into consideration, the event passes the  $\tau$ +lepton selection, it is counted as a background event with a weight given by the misidentification probability corresponding to the  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  of the  $\tau$  candidate. The predicted numbers of events from this data-driven method and from simulation are shown in table 3. The backgrounds arising from the jet  $\rightarrow \tau$  misidentification are not well modelled in simulation, which is why they are estimated using data-driven methods.

#### 5.4 Event yields and $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ distribution after the selection cuts

Table 4 shows the expected number of background events for the SM-only hypothesis and the observation in the data. The total number of predicted events (signal+background) in the presence of a 130 GeV charged Higgs boson with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$  is also shown. The  $\tau$ +lepton analysis relies on the theoretical  $t\bar{t}$  production cross section  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 167_{-18}^{+17}$  pb [26] for the background estimation. In the presence of a charged Higgs boson in the top quark decays, with a branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ , the contributions of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events in the backgrounds with true or misidentified  $\tau$  jets are scaled according to this branching

Sample	Data-driven method [events]	Simulation [events]
$t\bar{t}$	$900 \pm 15$	$877 \pm 6$
$W$ +jets	$150 \pm 3$	$145 \pm 9$
Single top quark	$81 \pm 1$	$61 \pm 2$
$Z/\gamma^*$ +jets	$44 \pm 1$	$69 \pm 4$
Diboson	$6 \pm 1$	$8 \pm 1$

**Table 3.** Application of the misidentification probability obtained from  $W$ +jets events in the data, for the  $\tau$ +lepton channel. The predictions of the background contributions based on data-driven misidentification probabilities and on simulation are given, with statistical uncertainties only. In both cases, all top quarks are assumed to decay via  $t \rightarrow bW$ .

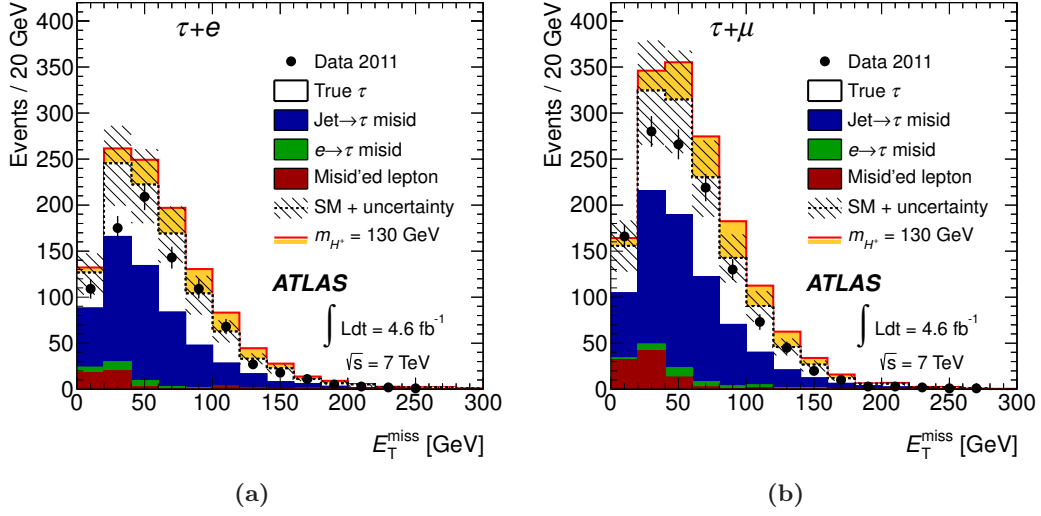
Sample	Event yield ( $\tau$ +lepton)	
	$\tau + e$	$\tau + \mu$
True $\tau$ +lepton	$430 \pm 14 \pm 59$	$570 \pm 15 \pm 75$
Misidentified jet $\rightarrow \tau$	$510 \pm 23 \pm 86$	$660 \pm 26 \pm 110$
Misidentified $e \rightarrow \tau$	$33 \pm 4 \pm 5$	$34 \pm 4 \pm 6$
Misidentified leptons	$39 \pm 10 \pm 20$	$90 \pm 10 \pm 34$
All SM backgrounds	$1010 \pm 30 \pm 110$	$1360 \pm 30 \pm 140$
Data	880	1219
$t \rightarrow bH^+$ (130 GeV)	$220 \pm 6 \pm 29$	$310 \pm 7 \pm 39$
Signal+background	$1160 \pm 30 \pm 100$	$1570 \pm 30 \pm 130$

**Table 4.** Expected event yields after all selection cuts in the  $\tau$ +lepton channel and comparison with  $4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data. The numbers in the last two rows, obtained for a hypothetical  $H^+$  signal with  $m_{H^+} = 130 \text{ GeV}$ , are obtained with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$ . All other rows assume  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bW) = 100\%$ . Both statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown, in this order.

ratio. The background with correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets is obtained with simulation. The data are found to be consistent with the expectation for the background-only hypothesis. The  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  distributions for the  $\tau + e$  and  $\tau + \mu$  channels, after all selection cuts are applied, are shown in figure 3.

## 6 Analysis of the $\tau$ +jets channel

The analysis presented here relies on the detection of  $\tau$ +jets decays of  $t\bar{t}$  events, where the hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton arises from  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau_{\text{had}}\nu$ , while the jets come from a hadronically decaying  $W$  boson, i.e.  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+ \rightarrow b\bar{b}(q\bar{q}')(\tau_{\text{had}}\nu)$ .



**Figure 3.**  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  distribution after all selection cuts in the  $\tau$ +lepton channel, for (a)  $\tau$ +electron and (b)  $\tau$ +muon final states. The dashed line corresponds to the SM-only hypothesis and the hatched area around it shows the total uncertainty for the SM backgrounds. The solid line shows the predicted contribution of signal+background in the presence of a 130 GeV charged Higgs boson with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$  and  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ . The contributions of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events in the backgrounds with true or misidentified  $\tau$  jets are scaled down accordingly.

### 6.1 Event selection

The  $\tau$ +jets analysis uses events passing a  $\tau + E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger with a threshold of 29 GeV on the  $\tau$  object and 35 GeV on calorimeter-based  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The following requirements are applied, in this order:

- at least four jets (excluding  $\tau$  jets) having  $p_T > 20$  GeV, of which at least one is  $b$ -tagged;
- exactly one  $\tau$  jet with  $p_T^\tau > 40$  GeV, found within  $|\eta| < 2.3$  and matched to a  $\tau$  trigger object;
- neither a second  $\tau$  jet with  $p_T^\tau > 20$  GeV, nor any electrons with  $E_T > 20$  GeV, nor any muons with  $p_T > 15$  GeV;
- $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 65$  GeV;
- to reject events in which a large reconstructed  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is due to the limited resolution of the energy measurement, the following ratio based on the  $\sum p_T$  definition of section 5 must satisfy:

$$\frac{E_T^{\text{miss}}}{0.5 \text{ GeV}^{1/2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum p_T}} > 13;$$

- a topology consistent with a top quark decay: the combination of one  $b$ -tagged jet (b) and two untagged jets ( $j$ ) with the highest  $p_T^{jjb}$  must satisfy  $m_{jjb} \in [120, 240]$  GeV.



For the selected events, the transverse mass  $m_T$  is defined as:

$$m_T = \sqrt{2p_T^\tau E_T^{\text{miss}}(1 - \cos \Delta\phi_{\tau, \text{miss}})}, \quad (6.1)$$

where  $\Delta\phi_{\tau, \text{miss}}$  is the azimuthal angle between the  $\tau$  jet and the direction of the missing momentum. This discriminating variable is related to the  $W$  boson mass in the  $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$  background case and to the  $H^+$  mass for the signal hypothesis.

## 6.2 Data-driven estimation of the multi-jet background

The multi-jet background is estimated by fitting its  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  shape (and the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  shape of other backgrounds) to data. In order to study this shape in a data-driven way, a control region is defined where the  $\tau$  identification and  $b$ -tagging requirements are modified, i.e.  $\tau$  candidates must pass a loose  $\tau$  identification but fail the tight  $\tau$  identification used in the signal selection, and the event is required not to contain any  $b$ -tagged jet. Hence, the requirement on  $m_{j\bar{j}b}$  is also removed. Assuming that the shapes of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and  $m_T$  distributions are the same in the control and signal regions, the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  shape for the multi-jet background is measured in the control region, after subtracting the simulated background contributions from other processes. These other processes amount to less than 1% of the observed events in the control region. The  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  shapes obtained with the  $\tau$ +jets selection of section 6.1 or in the control region are compared just before the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  requirement in the baseline selection in figure 4a. The differences between the two distributions are accounted for as systematic uncertainties. For the baseline selection, the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  distribution measured in the data is then fit using two shapes: the multi-jet model and the sum of other processes (dominated by  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets), for which the shape and the relative normalisation are taken from simulation, as shown in figure 4b. The ratio between the numbers of multi-jet background events in the control and signal regions enters the likelihood function for the signal estimation (see section 8) as a nuisance parameter while the shape of the multi-jet background is measured in the same region after additionally requiring  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 65$  GeV.

## 6.3 Backgrounds with electrons and jets misidentified as $\tau$ jets

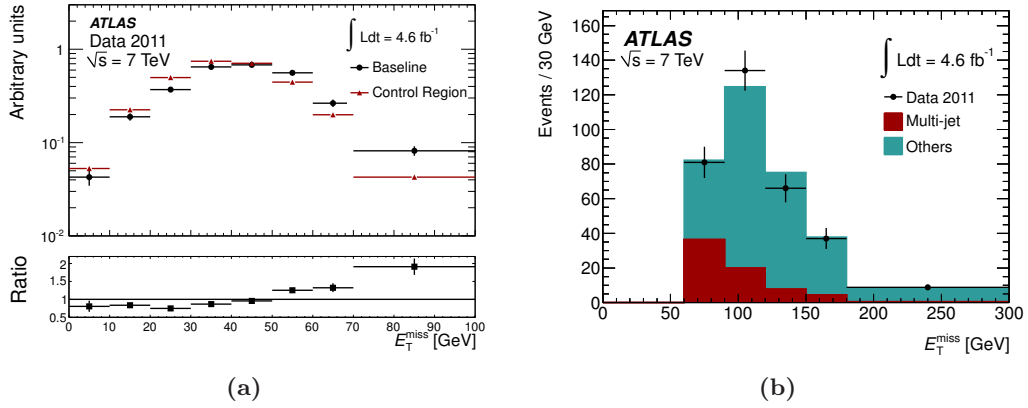
The methods described in section 5.3 are used to estimate the probability for electrons or jets to be misidentified as  $\tau$  jets. The estimated contribution to the background from the  $\text{jet} \rightarrow \tau$  misidentification after the  $\tau$ +jets selection is given in table 5. The backgrounds arising from the  $\text{jet} \rightarrow \tau$  misidentification are not expected to be well modelled in simulation, which is why they are estimated using data-driven methods.

## 6.4 Data-driven estimation of backgrounds with correctly reconstructed $\tau$ jets

An embedding method [54] is used to estimate the backgrounds that contain correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets. The method consists of selecting a control sample of  $t\bar{t}$ -like  $\mu$ +jets events and replacing the detector signature of the muon by a simulated hadronic  $\tau$  decay. These new hybrid events are then used for the background prediction. In order to select this control sample from the data, the following event selection is applied:

- event triggered by a single-muon trigger with a  $p_T$  threshold of 18 GeV;





**Figure 4.** (a) Shape of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in a control region of the data or using the baseline selection, after subtracting the expectation from  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $W$ +jets, and single top quark processes estimated from simulation. The distributions are compared just before the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  requirement in the baseline selection of section 6.1, with the exception that, in the control region, the  $\tau$  selection and the  $b$ -tagging requirements are modified, see text. (b) Fit of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  template to data, in the signal region. Only statistical uncertainties are shown.

Sample	Data-driven method [events]	Simulation [events]
$t\bar{t}$	$33 \pm 1$	$37 \pm 1$
$W$ +jets	$2.5 \pm 0.1$	$3.9 \pm 1.5$
Single top quark	$1.3 \pm 0.1$	$2.0 \pm 0.3$

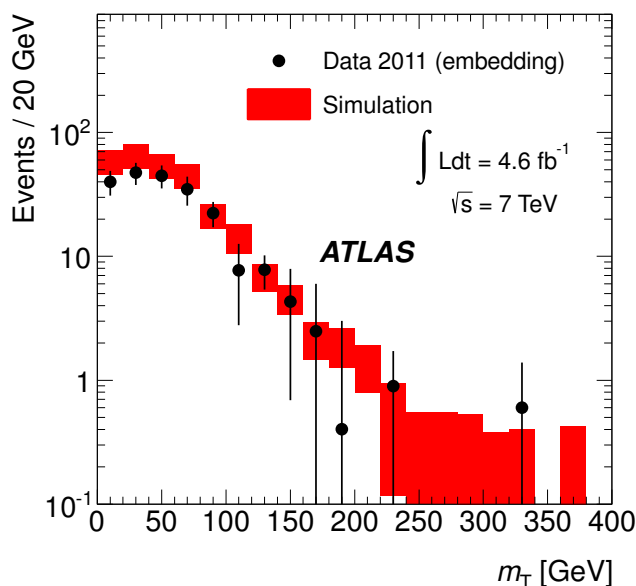
**Table 5.** Application of the misidentification probability obtained from a control region in the data enriched in  $W$ +jets events, for the  $\tau$ +jets channel. The predictions of the background contributions based on data-driven misidentification probabilities and on simulation are given, with statistical uncertainties only. In both cases, all top quarks decay via  $t \rightarrow bW$ .

- exactly one isolated muon with  $p_T > 25$  GeV, no isolated electron with  $E_T > 20$  GeV;
- at least four jets with  $p_T > 20$  GeV, at least one of which is  $b$ -tagged;
- $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 35$  GeV.

This selection is looser than the selection defined in section 6.1 in order not to bias the control sample. The impurity from the background with muons produced in  $\tau$  decays and non-isolated muons (dominantly  $b\bar{b}$  and  $c\bar{c}$  events) is about 10%. However, this contribution is greatly reduced as these events are much less likely to pass the  $\tau$ +jets selection, in particular the  $p_T^\tau$  requirement.

The shape of the  $m_T$  distribution for the backgrounds with true  $\tau$  jets is taken from the distribution obtained with the embedded events, after having applied the  $\tau$ +jets event selection. The normalisation is then derived from the number of embedded events:

$$N_\tau = N_{\text{embedded}} \cdot (1 - c_{\tau \rightarrow \mu}) \frac{\epsilon^{\tau + E_T^{\text{miss}} - \text{trigger}}}{\epsilon^{\mu - \text{ID}, \text{trigger}}} \cdot \mathcal{B}(\tau \rightarrow \text{hadrons} + \nu), \quad (6.2)$$



**Figure 5.** Comparison of the  $m_T$  distribution for correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets, predicted by the embedding method and simulation. Combined statistical and systematic uncertainties (as described in section 7) are shown.

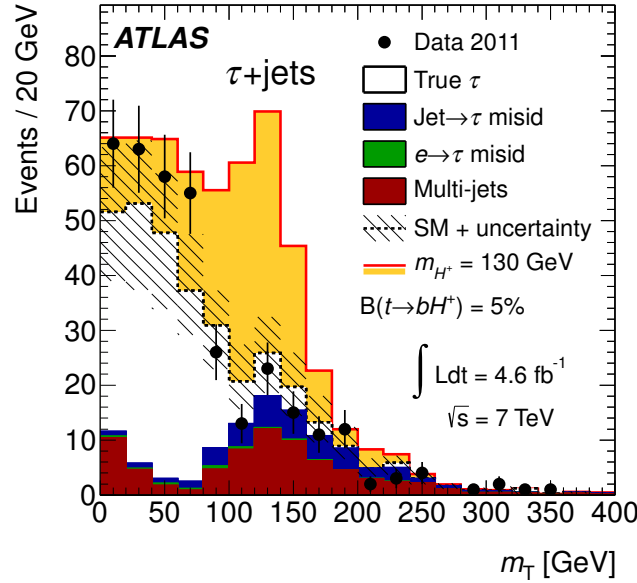
where  $N_\tau$  is the estimated number of events with correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets,  $N_{\text{embedded}}$  is the number of embedded events in the signal region,  $c_{\tau \rightarrow \mu}$  is the fraction of events in which the selected muon is a decay product of a  $\tau$  lepton (taken from simulation),  $\epsilon^{\tau + E_T^{\text{miss}} - \text{trigger}}$  is the  $\tau + E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger efficiency (as a function of  $p_T$  and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , derived from data),  $\epsilon^{\mu - \text{ID, trigger}}$  is the muon trigger and identification efficiency (as a function of  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , derived from data) and  $\mathcal{B}(\tau \rightarrow \text{hadrons} + \nu)$  is the branching ratio of the  $\tau$  lepton decays involving hadrons. The  $m_T$  distribution for correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets, as predicted by the embedding method, is shown in figure 5 and compared to simulation.

### 6.5 Event yields and $m_T$ distribution after the selection cuts

Table 6 shows the expected number of background events for the SM-only hypothesis and the observation in the data. The total number of predicted events (signal+background) in the presence of a 130 GeV charged Higgs boson with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$  is also shown. The number of events with a correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jet is derived from the number of embedded events and does not depend on the cross section of the  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  process. On the other hand, the  $\tau$ +jets analysis relies on the theoretical inclusive  $t\bar{t}$  production cross section  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}} = 167^{+17}_{-18}$  pb [26] for the estimation of the background with electrons or jets misidentified as  $\tau$  jets. In the presence of a charged Higgs boson in the top quark decays, with a branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$ , the contributions of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events in these backgrounds are scaled according to this branching ratio. The data are found to be consistent with the estimation of the SM background. The  $m_T$  distribution for the  $\tau$ +jets channel, after all selection cuts are applied, is shown in figure 6.

Sample	Event yield ( $\tau$ +jets)
True $\tau$ (embedding method)	$210 \pm 10 \pm 44$
Misidentified $\text{jet} \rightarrow \tau$	$36 \pm 6 \pm 10$
Misidentified $e \rightarrow \tau$	$3 \pm 1 \pm 1$
Multi-jet processes	$74 \pm 3 \pm 47$
All SM backgrounds	$330 \pm 12 \pm 65$
Data	355
$t \rightarrow bH^+$ (130 GeV)	$220 \pm 6 \pm 56$
Signal+background	$540 \pm 13 \pm 85$

**Table 6.** Expected event yields after all selection cuts in the  $\tau$ +jets channel and comparison with  $4.6\text{fb}^{-1}$  of data. The numbers in the last two rows, obtained for a hypothetical  $H^+$  signal with  $m_{H^+} = 130\text{ GeV}$ , are obtained with  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$ . The rows for the backgrounds with misidentified objects assume  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bW) = 100\%$ . Both statistical and systematic uncertainties are shown, in this order.



**Figure 6.** Distribution of  $m_T$  after all selection cuts in the  $\tau$ +jets channel. The dashed line corresponds to the SM-only hypothesis and the hatched area around it shows the total uncertainty for the SM backgrounds. The solid line shows the predicted contribution of signal+background in the presence of a charged Higgs boson with  $m_{H^+} = 130\text{ GeV}$ , assuming  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) = 5\%$  and  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ . The contributions of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  events in the backgrounds with misidentified objects are scaled down accordingly.

## 7 Systematic uncertainties

### 7.1 Systematic uncertainties arising from the detector simulation

Systematic uncertainties arising from the simulation of pile-up and object reconstruction are considered. The latter arise from the simulation of the trigger, from the reconstruction and identification efficiencies, as well as from the energy/momentum scale and resolution for the objects described in section 3. To assess the impact of most sources of systematic uncertainty, the selection cuts for each analysis are re-applied after shifting a particular parameter by its  $\pm 1$  standard deviation uncertainty. The systematic uncertainties related to the electrons and muons are discussed in, respectively, ref. [42] and refs. [43, 55]. For the jets, see ref. [48] and, in particular, ref. [50] for the  $b$ -tagging calibration. The systematic uncertainties related to  $\tau$  jets are discussed in ref. [51]. Finally, for the reconstruction of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , see ref. [52]. All studies of systematic uncertainties have been updated with the full dataset collected in 2011. The dominant instrumental systematic uncertainties arise from the jet energy resolution (10–30%, depending on  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ ), the jet energy scale (up to 14%, depending on  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , to which a pile-up term of 2–7% and a  $b$  jet term of 2.5% are added in quadrature), as well as the  $b$ -tagging efficiency (5–17%, depending on  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ ) and misidentification probability (12–21%, depending on  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ ). In comparison, the systematic uncertainties arising from the reconstruction and identification of electrons and muons are small. All instrumental systematic uncertainties are also propagated to the reconstructed  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ .

### 7.2 Systematic uncertainties arising from the generation of $t\bar{t}$ events

In order to estimate the systematic uncertainties arising from the  $t\bar{t}$  generation and the parton shower model, the acceptance is computed for  $t\bar{t}$  events produced with MC@NLO interfaced to HERWIG/JIMMY and POWHEG [56] interfaced to PYTHIA. For the signal samples, which are generated with PYTHIA (i.e. without higher-order corrections), no alternative generator is available. Instead, the systematic uncertainty for the signal samples is set to the relative difference in acceptance between  $t\bar{t}$  events generated with MC@NLO interfaced to HERWIG/JIMMY and with AcerMC, which is also a leading-order generator, interfaced to PYTHIA. The systematic uncertainties arising from initial and final state radiation are computed using  $t\bar{t}$  samples generated with AcerMC interfaced to PYTHIA, where initial and final state radiation parameters are set to a range of values not excluded by the experimental data [57]. The largest relative differences with respect to the reference sample after full event selections are used as systematic uncertainties. The systematic uncertainties arising from the modelling of the  $t\bar{t}$  event generation and the parton shower, as well as initial and final state radiation, are summarised in table 7 for each analysis.

### 7.3 Systematic uncertainties arising from data-driven background estimates

The systematic uncertainties arising from the data-driven methods used to estimate the various backgrounds are summarised in table 8, for each of the three channels considered in the analysis.

Source of uncertainty	Normalisation uncertainty
lepton+jets:	
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}WH^+$ , signal region)	10%
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ , signal region)	8%
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}WH^+$ , control region)	7%
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ , control region)	6%
Initial and final state radiation (signal region)	8%
Initial and final state radiation (control region)	13%
$\tau$ +lepton:	
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}WH^+$ )	2%
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ )	5%
Initial and final state radiation	13%
$\tau$ +jets:	
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}WH^+$ )	5%
Generator and parton shower ( $b\bar{b}W^+W^-$ )	5%
Initial and final state radiation	19%

**Table 7.** Systematic uncertainties arising from the modelling of  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$  and  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{b}WH^+$  events and the parton shower, as well as from initial and final state radiation.

For backgrounds with misidentified leptons, discussed in sections 4.2 and 5.2, the main systematic uncertainties arise from the simulated samples used for subtracting true leptons in the determination of the misidentification probabilities. These are sensitive to the instrumental systematic uncertainties and to the sample dependence (misidentification probabilities are calculated in a control region dominated by gluon-initiated events, but later used in a data sample with a higher fraction of quark-initiated events).

The dominant systematic uncertainties in the estimation of the multi-jet background in the  $\tau$ +jets channel, described in section 6.2, are the statistical uncertainty of the fit due to the limited size of the data control sample and uncertainties due to potential differences of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  shape in the signal and control regions. The dominant systematic uncertainties in estimating the contribution of events with electrons misidentified as  $\tau$  jets in sections 5.3 and 6.3 arise from the subtraction of the multi-jet and electroweak backgrounds in the control region enriched with  $Z \rightarrow ee$  events and from potential correlations in the selections of the tag and probe electrons. For the estimation of backgrounds with jets misidentified as hadronically decaying  $\tau$  leptons, also discussed in sections 5.3 and 6.3, the dominant systematic uncertainties on the misidentification probability are the statistical uncertainty due to the limited control sample size and uncertainties due to the difference of the jet composition (gluon- or quark-initiated) in the control and signal regions, which is estimated

Source of uncertainty	Normalisation uncertainty	Shape uncertainty
lepton+jets: lepton misidentification		
Choice of control region	6%	-
$Z$ mass window	4%	-
Jet energy scale	16%	-
Jet energy resolution	7%	-
Sample composition	31%	-
$\tau$ +lepton: jet $\rightarrow \tau$ misidentification		
Statistics in control region	2%	-
Jet composition	11%	-
Object-related systematics	23%	3%
$\tau$ +lepton: $e \rightarrow \tau$ misidentification		
Misidentification probability	20%	-
$\tau$ +lepton: lepton misidentification		
Choice of control region	4%	-
$Z$ mass window	5%	-
Jet energy scale	14%	-
Jet energy resolution	4%	-
Sample composition	39%	-
$\tau$ +jets: true $\tau$		
Embedding parameters	6%	3%
Muon isolation	7%	2%
Parameters in normalisation	16%	-
$\tau$ identification	5%	-
$\tau$ energy scale	6%	1%
$\tau$ +jets: jet $\rightarrow \tau$ misidentification		
Statistics in control region	2%	-
Jet composition	12%	-
Purity in control region	6%	1%
Object-related systematics	21%	2%
$\tau$ +jets: $e \rightarrow \tau$ misidentification		
Misidentification probability	22%	-
$\tau$ +jets: multi-jet estimate		
Fit-related uncertainties	32%	-
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$ -shape in control region	16%	-

**Table 8.** Dominant systematic uncertainties on the data-driven estimates. The shape uncertainty given is the relative shift of the mean value of the final discriminant distribution. A “-” in the second column indicates negligible shape uncertainties.

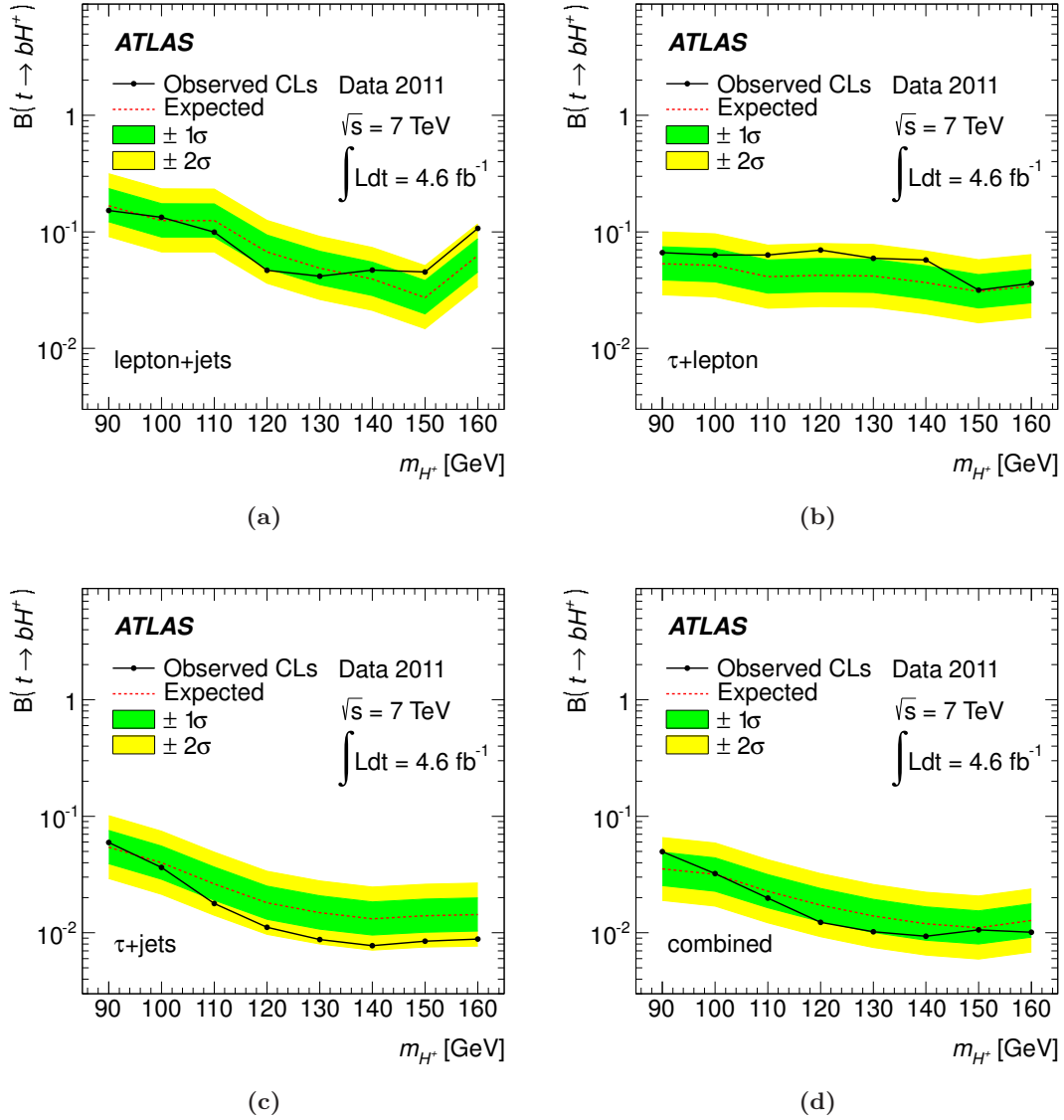
using simulation. Other uncertainties come from the impurities arising from multi-jet background events and from true hadronic  $\tau$  decays in the control sample. The systematic uncertainties affecting the estimation of the background from correctly reconstructed  $\tau$  jets in the  $\tau$ +jets channel, discussed in section 6.4, consist of the potential bias introduced by the embedding method itself, uncertainties from the trigger efficiency measurement, uncertainties associated to simulated  $\tau$  jets ( $\tau$  energy scale and identification efficiency) and uncertainties on the normalisation, which are dominated by the statistical uncertainty of the selected control sample and the  $\tau + E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger efficiency uncertainties.

## 8 Results

In order to test the compatibility of the data with background-only and signal+background hypotheses, a profile likelihood ratio [58] is used with  $m_T^H$  (lepton+jets),  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  ( $\tau$ +lepton) and  $m_T$  ( $\tau$ +jets) as the discriminating variables. The statistical analysis is based on a binned likelihood function for these distributions. The systematic uncertainties in shape and normalisation are incorporated via nuisance parameters, and the one-sided profile likelihood ratio,  $\tilde{q}_\mu$ , is used as a test statistic. No significant deviation from the SM prediction is observed in any of the investigated final states in  $4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data. Exclusion limits are set on the branching fraction  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  and, in the context of the  $m_h^{\text{max}}$  scenario of the MSSM, on  $\tan \beta$ , by rejecting the signal hypothesis at the 95% confidence level (CL) using the  $\text{CL}_s$  procedure [59]. These limits are based on the asymptotic distribution of the test statistic [58]. The combined limit is derived from the product of the individual likelihoods, and systematic uncertainties are treated as correlated where appropriate. The exclusion limits for the individual channels, as well as the combined limit, are shown in figure 7 in terms of  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  with the assumption  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ . In figure 8, the combined limit on  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+) \times \mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu)$  is interpreted in the context of the  $m_h^{\text{max}}$  scenario of the MSSM. The following relative theoretical uncertainties on  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  are considered [60, 61]: 5% for one-loop electroweak corrections missing from the calculations, 2% for missing two-loop QCD corrections, and about 1% (depending on  $\tan \beta$ ) for  $\Delta_b$ -induced uncertainties, where  $\Delta_b$  is a correction factor to the running  $b$  quark mass [62]. These uncertainties are added linearly, as recommended by the LHC Higgs cross section working group [61].

## 9 Conclusions

Charged Higgs bosons have been searched for in  $t\bar{t}$  events, in the decay mode  $t \rightarrow bH^+$  followed by  $H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu$ . For this purpose, a total of  $4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ , recorded in 2011 with the ATLAS experiment, is used. Three final states are considered, which are characterised by the presence of a leptonic or hadronic  $\tau$  decay,  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ ,  $b$  jets, and a leptonically or hadronically decaying  $W$  boson. Data-driven methods and simulation are employed to estimate the number of background events. The observed data are found to be in agreement with the SM predictions. Assuming  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ , upper limits at the 95% confidence level have been set on the branching ratio  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  between 5% ( $m_{H^+} = 90 \text{ GeV}$ ) and 1% ( $m_{H^+} = 160 \text{ GeV}$ ). This result constitutes a significant



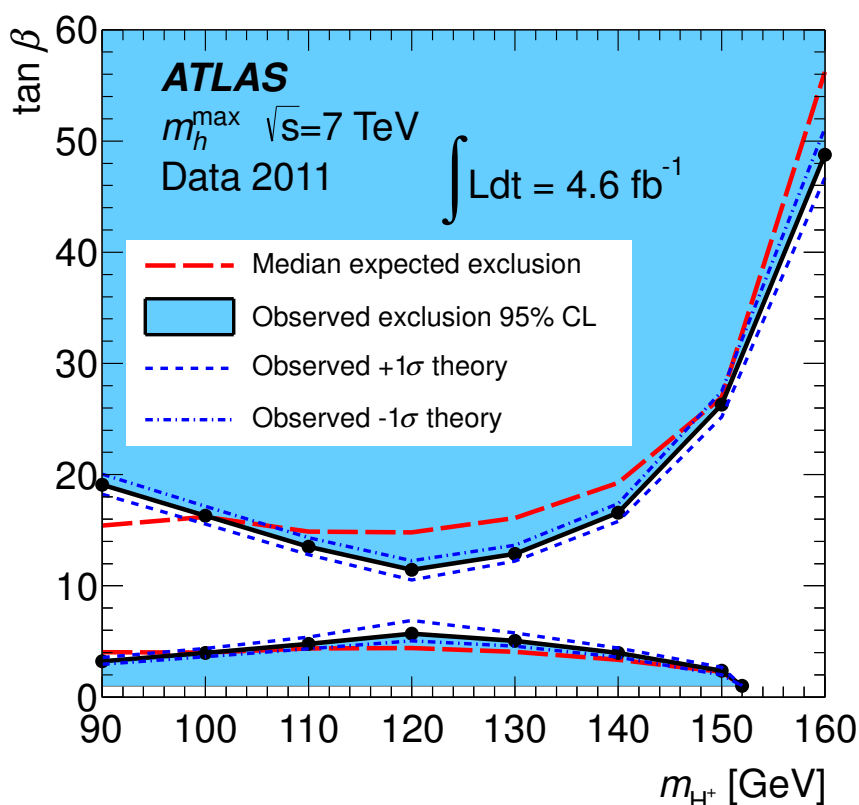
**Figure 7.** Expected and observed 95% CL exclusion limits on  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow bH^+)$  for charged Higgs boson production from top quark decays as a function of  $m_{H^+}$ , assuming  $\mathcal{B}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau\nu) = 100\%$ . Shown are the results for: (a) lepton+jets channel; (b)  $\tau$ +lepton channel; (c)  $\tau$ +jets channel; (d) combination.

improvement compared to existing limits provided by the Tevatron experiments [14, 15] over the whole investigated mass range, but in particular for  $m_{H^+}$  close to the top quark mass. Interpreted in the context of the  $m_h^{\max}$  scenario of the MSSM,  $\tan\beta$  above 12–26, as well as between 1 and 2–6, can be excluded in the mass range  $90 \text{ GeV} < m_{H^+} < 150 \text{ GeV}$ .

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**Figure 8.** Combined 95% CL exclusion limits on  $\tan \beta$  as a function of  $m_{H^+}$ . Results are shown in the context of the MSSM scenario  $m_h^{\max}$  for the region  $1 < \tan \beta < 60$  in which reliable theoretical predictions exist. The theoretical uncertainties described in the text are shown as well.

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# The ATLAS collaboration

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